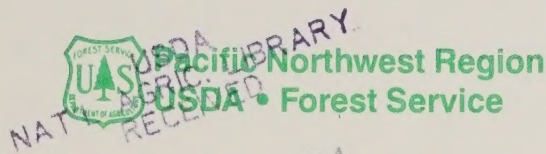


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Forest Service NEWS



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Counties Share In National Forest Receipts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PORTLAND, Dec. 8--Balance payments of national forest receipts to counties in Oregon and Washington bring total payments this year to \$120 million for the State of Oregon and \$32 million to the State of Washington, says Regional Forester John E. Lowe of the USDA Forest Service.

Lowe, the chief executive for the Pacific Northwest Region of the agency, says, "The balance payments of about \$29.1 million to Oregon and \$7.8 million to Washington are the final share of national forest revenues." An interim payment of about 75 percent was made earlier this year in October, he adds.

Together, the two payments brings total receipts to Oregon and Washington counties to about \$120 million for Oregon and \$32 million for Washington.

This amount is about 49 percent of the \$309 million in receipts distributed nationally among 43 states and Puerto Rico. Nationally, Oregon received the most money from national forests, with Washington in third place (following California, with \$51 million in receipts).

According to Lowe, "The payments reflect what has become known as 'the owl guarantee'. This is a special provision of a law that gives the counties a chance to adjust to downward changes in forest revenues."

The provision (Section 315 of the Interior and Related Agencies 1993 Appropriations Act) is designed to mitigate economic effects associated with the listing of the northern spotted owl. This year, it allows the Forest Service to pay counties affected by reductions in forest revenues at a rate equal to 85 percent of a five-year (1986-1990) average, he says.

Normally, 25 percent of revenues collected from land-use fees and the sale of resources from 24.5 million acres of national forests go to the States, which are required by federal law to use their share of the money for public schools and roads. However, these payments to the States do not include 25 percent of the national grassland revenues. Those payments are based on calendar year 1994 receipts, and will be made in March, 1995.

1 of 3

See attachments

	FY-94 Payment Owl Guarantee	FY-94 Payment If Based On Actual Receipts	FY 1993 Payment
State of Oregon			
Baker	1,303,693.00	1,303,693.00	906,745.98
Benton	354,804.62	42,734.78	355,359.64
Clackamas	5,068,415.66	2,221,016.86	5,056,540.68
Coos	573,896.51	109,681.74	479,061.53
Crook	2,593,802.21	2,593,802.21	3,837,449.91
Curry	4,015,804.49	966,248.76	2,883,059.61
Deschutes	3,433,359.40	2,809,265.81	3,433,359.40
Douglas	15,940,947.56	12,316,724.97	15,930,790.20
Grant	10,090,328.15	10,090,328.15	8,054,057.87
Harney	3,732,752.93	3,732,752.93	3,790,448.00
Hood River	2,067,601.33	905,505.51	2,088,700.56
Jackson	4,549,843.34	2,802,477.38	4,534,087.18
Jefferson	618,597.79	485,903.17	618,502.74
Josephine	2,192,990.33	591,537.15	1,624,178.77
Klamath	11,682,310.57	5,996,364.65	19,996,164.52
Lake	4,144,999.28	4,034,581.79	6,505,195.76
Lane	24,106,633.20	11,169,966.55	24,105,979.26
Lincoln	3,734,258.83	449,776.31	3,740,100.25
Linn	8,009,601.22	4,219,158.78	8,009,645.31
Malheur	9,758.86	9,758.86	6,954.91
Marion	3,006,135.14	1,522,989.61	3,004,705.24
Morrow	256,092.73	256,092.73	289,101.61
Multnomah	776,785.63	340,193.08	773,558.36
Polk	6,917.71	833.21	6,928.53
Tillamook	1,987,928.32	239,437.89	1,991,037.99
Umatilla	711,535.90	711,535.90	784,844.51
Union	968,374.99	968,374.99	744,400.80
Wallowa	349,564.89	349,564.89	1,437,896.95
Wasco	2,106,515.96	922,548.17	2,102,056.88
Wheeler	842,094.72	842,094.72	1,220,364.65
Yamhill	554,722.12	66,814.03	555,589.86
	<hr/> 119,791,067.39	<hr/> 73,071,758.58	128,866,867.46
Interim Payment -	90,688,090.01		
This Payment -	<hr/> 29,102,977.38		

	FY-94 Payment Owl Guarantee	FY-94 Payment If Based On Actual Receipts	FY 1993 Payment
State of Washington			
Asotin	96,137.75	96,137.75	108,529.36
Chelan	1,948,376.20	454,262.16	1,948,326.26
Clallam	1,684,050.72	157,891.26	1,649,977.77
Clark	10,534.22	7,375.65	10,555.63
Columbia	285,033.95	285,033.95	321,773.19
Cowlitz	305,537.05	213,925.00	306,157.94
Douglas	2.70	0.63	2.70
Ferry	689,901.63	689,901.63	848,309.88
Garfield	170,603.99	170,603.99	192,593.86
Grays Harbor	484,690.16	45,443.01	474,883.55
Jefferson	2,272,286.43	213,042.37	2,224,518.16
King	1,553,321.56	466,354.36	1,553,329.29
Kittitas	731,499.42	187,351.30	731,547.75
Klickitat	130,338.67	91,258.00	126,417.06
Lewis	3,659,588.39	2,433,140.42	3,666,026.83
Mason	534,473.41	50,110.54	523,399.23
Okanogan	1,536,529.12	1,389,453.66	1,536,529.12
Pend Oreille	925,154.90	925,154.90	951,721.97
Pierce	552,890.86	165,994.64	552,887.29
Skagit	933,956.13	172,959.47	577,592.41
Skamania	7,582,282.33	5,308,815.27	7,578,439.86
Snohomish	1,581,676.75	379,053.69	1,263,750.78
Stevens	327,900.98	327,900.98	394,622.78
Thurston	2,748.50	818.50	2,747.84
Walla Walla	4,347.88	4,347.88	4,908.32
Whatcom	1,503,908.84	278,509.10	930,116.64
Yakima	2,405,790.68	856,363.37	2,406,458.57
	<hr/> 31,913,563.22	<hr/> 15,371,203.48	<hr/> 30,886,124.04
Interim Payment -	24,045,774.17		
This Payment -	<hr/> 7,867,789.05		

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Sandra Berger

"Workbuster" Honored

Forest Service honors employee for distinctive professional and civic work.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PORTLAND, Dec. 19--"Workbuster" Dan Nichols, aka assistant director of Financial Management for the regional office of the Forest Service in Portland, Oregon, has been named Forest Service Accountant of the Year, says Regional Forester John Lowe.

Lowe, the chief executive of the agency's Pacific Northwest Region, says he's delighted with the award. "Dan Nichols' contributions to the agency, and by extension, the public, are just exemplary," he says.

The award recognizes Nichols' special efforts to improve budget and financial procedures in the wake of work-force reductions, through an initiative informally known as "Workbusters." It also honors his work in developing a Regional financial guide. The guide, complete with reference resources, helps Forest Service offices throughout Oregon and Washington meet national directions -- from the agency and from Congress -- for budget management.

Nichols was praised for his efforts by Dee Foxworthy, Forest Service Director of Fiscal and Accounting Services and Tony Williams, Chief Financial Officer for the United States Department of Agriculture who presented the award.

Nichols, an Oregon City resident, past-President of the local chapter of the Association of Government Accountants, is an active civic volunteer as well. He is involved in local projects that range from scholarship activities to outreach efforts to homeless people, and is a member of the board of trustees for church and nonprofit organizations.

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Caring for the Land

Forest Service honors partners, employees for ecosystem efforts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Portland, Dec. 21--"A surfeit of riches!" is how John Lowe, chief executive of the Pacific Northwest Region of the USDA Forest Service describes the number and quality of nominations for the region's coveted "Caring for the Land" awards, presented recently at a leadership team meeting in Portland, Oregon.

"Forest Service employees and Forest Service partners both were recognized for their commitment to ecosystem stewardship," says Lowe of the annual honors. Honored individually were Forest Service employee Karl Urban, Pendleton, Oregon; and private citizen Craig Dremann, of Redwood City, California.

Urban, a botanist at Umatilla National Forest, is honored for "outstanding leadership and commitment to botanical programs, recognized at the region and national levels of the Forest Service". Dremann, nominated by the staff of the Rogue River National Forest, is honored for being the "driving force behind an outstanding native grass developmental program in the Pacific Northwest Region."

Group awards honored three Oregon groups and one in the State of Washington. They include a Portland-area school, a Central Point Boy Scout group, and a team of John Day Forest Service sale administrators at Bear Valley Ranger District, as well as a Yakima, Washington area resource cooperative.

The Portland school receiving the award -- Catlin Gabel -- was nominated by employees of Barlow Ranger District, Mount Hood National Forest, for being "a model of a cooperative partnership in watershed restoration."

Crater Lake Council of Boy Scouts of America (Central Point, Oregon) is honored for its members "outstanding efforts and commitment, benefitting natural resources and the Eagle Scout program. The Rogue River National Forest nominated this winner as well.

The Bear Valley Ranger District sale administration team from the Malheur National Forest includes Louis Provencher, Edward Bennett, Stuart Carlson, Jim Johnson, Glenn Powell, Curtis Qual, Mary Jones, and Tracie Lieuallen. These Forest Service employees are honored for "demonstrating quality, excellence, and sensitivity to resource and public needs."

Yakima Resource Management Cooperative, nominated by Wenatchee National Forest, is honored for "outstanding leadership and commitment to protect public resources and achieve consensus." Cle Elum District Ranger Catherine Stephenson is an active member of the cooperative.

In 1988, says Lowe, Forest Service leadership in this region initiated the "Caring for the Land" awards as a way of conferring recognition and prestige for excellence in land stewardship. "What we wanted," he says, "was an award for land stewardship." The first awards emphasized achievements in multiple-use management, integrated resources stewardship; forest plan implementation; long-term productivity of the land; and our partners (outside the Forest Service) who "help make it happen" as we implement actions on the ground.

In 1994, the selection criteria changed to better reflect the importance of the ecosystem approach to land management. In addition, the award category for "groups" was combined to reflect an increased emphasis on cooperation, coordination, and partnerships between agencies and the public.

